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Annex C

Publicity Relating to OSS Records  
in the Published Guides of the National Archives

Note. The excerpts below are taken from the three major guides published by the National Archives.

Guide to the Records in the National Archives  
(latest edition, published in 1948, pp. 587 and 610)

The records of OSS in National Archives custody are described as follows (pp. 587-588):

"Classified outpost correspondence, 1941-44; correspondence of the Africa Section, 1941-45; documents relating to political, economic, social, cultural, and military conditions in various countries, 1942-45; 'Order of Battle' file, consisting of economic and military intelligence documents, 1942-45; property records of field installations, 1942-45; [REDACTED] 25X1A

topographic maps of Europe with annotations showing plans for operations, particularly of a 'commando' type, along beachheads and in association with underground movements, 1943-45; and 'Civil Affairs Guides' for Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, and the Netherlands, 1944-45. 585 feet.

"Motion pictures entitled 'December 7th,' 'Japanese Geography,' 'Japanese Resources,' and 'Japanese Behavior,' 1941-44 (82 units); and German-produced motion pictures, chiefly with Portuguese sound tracks, obtained and used by the Office for intelligence purposes, together with English translations and caption sheets, 1942-45 (1,000 units). 181 feet."

The restrictions on these records are described elsewhere as follows (p. 610):

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"a. Outpost correspondence, 1941-44; correspondence of the Africa Section, 1941-45; documents relating to political, economic, social, cultural, and military conditions in various countries, 1942-45; 'Order of Battle' file, consisting of economic and military intelligence documents, 1942-45; <sup>25X1A</sup> [REDACTED], 1942-45; and 'Civil Affairs Guides' may be used only by permission of the Department of State.

"b. Property records of the headquarters office and of field installations, 1942-45, may be used only by agencies of the Federal Government or by permission of the Central Intelligence Agency."

Note. By implication, it would appear that there are no "restrictions" on the map files nor on the several motion pictures described on pp. 587-588 of this "Guide."

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Looseleaf Compilation. "Registrations of Record Groups"

Note. The statement on OSS records on deposit in the National Archives, revised as of Aug. 18, 1952, is as follows:

"The Office of Coordinator of Information was established by a Presidential order of July 11, 1941, to collect, analyze, and correlate information bearing on national security and to make this information available to the President and to such Government departments and officials as the President might determine. It also carried out at the request of the President supplementary activities to facilitate the obtaining of important information. By a military order signed by the President on June 13, 1942, this office was designated as the Office of Strategic Services and was placed under the jurisdiction of the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff. An Executive order of the same date transferred certain foreign information activities of the Coordinator of Information, with related records, to the Office of War Information (see Record Group 208), and an Executive order of March 9, 1943, defined these to include 'all phases of the federal program of radio, press, publication, and related foreign propaganda activities involving the dissemination of information.' The duties of the Office of Strategic Services were to collect and analyze such strategic information as might be required by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and to plan and operate special services at their direction. The Office was terminated by an Executive order of September 20, 1945, effective October 1, 1945, and its records and some remaining functions were divided between the Department of State and the Department of War.

"Description of records in the National Archives: Economic and military documents in a file known as 'Order of Battle'; correspondence,

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memoranda, and other records of field offices; reports on political, economic, social, and military conditions in various countries; correspondence and other records of the Europe-Africa Division of the Research and Analysis Branch; topographic maps of Europe, with annotations, showing plans for commando and other operations; copies of maps showing terrain, transportation, and economic conditions in the Far East and the Soviet Union; property records of field installations; correspondence of the Washington and New York offices of the Pictorial Records Section, and a card file of information about persons whose photographs were obtained by the Office of Strategic Services for various reasons; and motion pictures entitled 'December 7th,' 'Japanese Geography,' 'Japanese Resources,' and 'Japanese Behavior.'

"Inclusive dates: 1941-45. Quantity: 1,355 cubic feet, including 14 cubic feet of motion-picture film. Accessions: 2158, 2159, 2289, 2313, 2397, 2405, 2577, 2843, 3236, 3380, and 3388. Custody: War Records Branch, Audio-Visual Records Branch, and Cartographic Records Branch. These records were received from the Department of State, the War Department, the Central Intelligence Group, and the Central Intelligence Agency...."

In an accompanying regulation on "restrictions" governing OSS records, issued by the National Archives on March 2, 1948, the deposited records of OSS are to be handled as follows:

"The use of accessioned records in this record group is subject to the restrictions stated in 'General Restrictions on the Use of Records in the National Archives' to the extent that any of these records are of the character described therein as restricted.

"Restrictions that are specifically applicable to this record group are as follows:

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"I. Records: 'Order of Battle' file, 1942-45; reference information file, 'L Series,' 1942-45; records of the Europe-Africa Division, Research and Analysis Branch, 1941-45; and records of the Stockholm, Sweden, and New Delhi, India field offices, 1942-45.

Restrictions: Unless express permission is obtained from the Department of State, these records shall be kept confidential and shall be withheld from examination and consultation by officials, private individuals, or any other persons.

Imposed by: The Secretary of State.

"II. Records: Property records of the headquarters office and of field installations, 1942-45.

Restrictions: Use of these records is restricted to agencies of the Government and to persons authorized to use them by the Central Intelligence Agency.

Imposed by: The Archivist of the United States."

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Federal Records of World War II: Volume II: Military Agencies  
(published by the National Archives, 1951)

This guide (Vol. II, pp. 14-16) contains a general summary of the entire body of wartime records of GMS, as of "April 1947," including principally those in SSU, in the State Department, and in the National Archives, as well as fragments of OSS records known to be in other agencies. The summary is as follows:

"...In April 1947 the greater part of the records of OSS were in the custody of the Strategic Services Unit of the Office of the Assistant Secretary of War, a unit that had inherited the work of the archives unit established within the Registry of OSS in July 1945. These records included policy papers, operational reports, and administrative files of OSS headquarters and records of the field establishments of OSS that had been shipped to Washington. A file of printed and processed military intelligence documents assembled by OSS, 1943-45 (24 feet), is in the Departmental Records Branch, AGO. A considerable quantity of records of the Research and Analysis Branch and the Presentation Branch, including material resulting from the work of the Office of Strategic Services in assembling, analyzing, and reporting on information to be used by the Joint Chiefs of Staff and other agencies, is in the Department of State (chiefly in its Division of Library and Reference Services), many documents having been integrated with materials from other sources into new series.

"Some 800 feet of OSS records are in the National Archives, including military intelligence documents known as 'Order of Battle' documents, 1942-45 (50 feet); correspondence, memoranda, and other records of the

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field offices at Stockholm, Sweden, and at New Delhi, India, 1942-45 (6 feet); reports on political, economic, social, and military conditions in various countries, 1942-45 (110 feet); correspondence and other records of the Europe-Africa Division of the Research and Analysis Branch, 1941-45 (15 feet); topographic maps of Europe, with annotations, showing plans for commando and other operations, 1943-45 (13 maps); property records of OSS field installations, 1942-45 (443 feet); and correspondence files of the Washington and New York offices of the Pictorial Records Section and a card file of information about persons whose photographs were obtained by OSS for various reasons, 1942-45 (33 feet). Also in the National Archives are German documentary, propaganda, and other motion pictures used by OSS during the war and motion pictures prepared by OSS (approximately 250 reels).

(30 feet).

"Papers relating to OSS are also among the records of other wartime agencies. See, for example, the central records of the War Department

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(in the Adjutant General's Office) especially index sheets filed under AG O20 Office of Strategic Services, Aug. 1941-Sept. 1945, and AG O20 Strategic Services Unit, Sept. 1945ff. A set of Accession Lists, 1942-45, prepared by the Research and Analysis Branch is on file in the Air Historical Group; and copies of 'Topographic Intelligence Studies' and 'Weekly Situation Reports' of the Research and Analysis Branch, as well as copies of the OSS serial, 'The War This Week,' are in the intelligence library of the Air Force Department. A number of Civil Affairs Guides and reports on economic problems, prepared largely by the Research and Analysis Branch, 1942-45, are in the central files of the Office of International Finance of the Treasury Department.

"Records of other agencies outside the United States contain documents relating to OSS. Records of the Economic Warfare Division of the American Embassy in London include reports of OSS personnel in Europe relating to Safehaven projects, 1945 (less than 1 foot). Among the records of the United States Mission for Economic Affairs in London are reports of the Research and Analysis Branch in Washington and in London on various economic topics, including food and agriculture, and reports prepared jointly by OSS personnel in London and by personnel of the Economic Warfare Division of the American Embassy in London on various European political and economic topics (2 feet); and copies of reports prepared by OSS personnel in Europe for inclusion in Civil Affairs Guides to Germany, Italy, Japan, Greece, and Eastern European countries."

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